

Explosion hits
Grepalife building
in Makati; no one hurt

More back-to-school tips
from packing your "kikay"
kit to how to keep safe



US President Bush pushes
for amendment banning
same sex marriage

10 ways to get
more out
of your fuel

GMA rebuts accusations she won't tolerate dissent

By Christine G. Arendano
and Dona Probst

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF BROADCASTING, PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday sought to rebut allegations that her administration does not tolerate dissent and is silencing the voices of millions of ordinary citizens.

Macapagal-Arroyo said she has directed the military and police to stop the killings blamed on her government. And her defense chief ordered security forces to stop the killings.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, June 7, 2006 ** 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 179 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

"You can do much more than you can with a gun"

JULIO SALAS—AMERICAN TROOPS USED TO make him a hero in Vietnam, a Manila native at times led the war of attrition one of those most ardent supporters of the United States after they helped him fight what he said last year ago—the struggle.

Only minutes after an American civilian went down at a shooting, Salas (who had moved the barracks that had been in the dark for several years, the 60-year-old veteran was looking

YOUNG/ALF

Death penalty is dead

Solons cross party lines to OK GMA-backed bill repealing capital punishment

Bunye irked, says bye to 'Hello Garci'

By G.C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Michael Lim-Uloc

EXACTLY A YEAR AFTER HIS "I have two CDs" announcement, First Secretary Ignacio Bunye was fired by reporters' continued questions on the "Hello Garci" scandal that shook Manila and provoked the worst political crisis in President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

"We are not talking about that anymore," Bunye said yesterday at a briefing when the issue involving his Arroyo's vetting conversations with then Vatican Communications Virginie Gervais was raised.

"As far as we're concerned, it's a dead issue. And since this is related to the impeachment, we know that the people are tired of so much politics... that the people would rather move forward," he said.

Bunye was visibly angered when reporters pressed him for more comments on the controversy alleging flimsy in the 2004 presidential election.

Asked if he was working to his



By Juliet Lasing-Jarabana,
Philip Tubano
and Michael Lim-Uloc

IN A MOVE THAT WOULD BENEFIT about 1,000 people on death row, the Senate and the House of Representatives yesterday crossed party lines to approve the abolition of the death penalty, weeks before President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to the Vatican for an audience with Pope Benedict XVI.

Saying that capital punishment was cruel, inhuman and failed to deter heinous crimes, the Senate approved on third and final reading, by a 15-0 vote with one abstention—Sen. Benigno Aquino III—supporting the death penalty.

Also voting party lines, members of the House passed their own version by a similarly crushing vote, 118 for abolition, 28 against and one abstention.

The two chambers are expected to hammer out a common version which 30 Arroyo, who has publicly said she favors the abolition of capital punishment, is expected to sign into law.

The main congressional action would repeal Republic Act No. 7659 or the Death Penalty Law, which Congress enacted in 1982. It would also repeal Republic Act No. 8177, which prescribes death by lethal injection for those convicted of heinous crimes.

Instead of death, the penalty is downgraded to reclusion perpetua or life imprisonment without parole, under the Senate version.

DEATH/ALF

claims made at last year's press conference where he showed the supposed authentic and fake CDs of the vetting conversations, he said: "This is finished, this is not being discussed anymore."

"We have already said what we are supposed to say about this issue. We restilled before Congress,

and that's that."

At the House, Senior Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano responded in a privilege speech why a year after the vetting scandal and two years after the 2004 presidential polls, there had been "no credible, fair, independent investigation on election fraud."

"Everyone knows that there was cheating, everyone accepts that there was cheating, everyone agrees that we should investigate it. But not a single department or agency or government entity has investigated election fraud," Cayetano said.

"The closest we have come to

HELLO GARCIA: A year later, June 6, 2006, the Gloria Gervais is still the main issue, say militant groups. The Arroyo who stage a rally at welcome Bunyeta in Manila to make sure that the nation remembers.

STATE OF RP EDUCATION

Private sector brightest spot in bleak school system

By Vito Conrera

AS OF A SERIES

POLITICIANS AND BUREAUCRATS COMBINE to go with speeches and sound bites on everything that's wrong with the Philippine education system but businessmen can provide the solutions.

Private sector education, now worth billions of pesos each year, is one of the main bright spots in the bleak public school system.

What individual projects may lack in scale, corporate donors make up for in terms of strategic targeting, reliable funding, technology and, most importantly, continuity on the assurance that new books, computers and classrooms are forthcoming on matter who wins in the last elections.

A company or conglomerate usually picks a niche, a specific need on which to concentrate its philanthropy. It's not charity but "social investments."

As executives lecture just in: Today's bright pupil is tomorrow's smart worker, manager or entrepreneur.

The Federation of 38 Igo-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FPOCCI), for instance, has not only become the biggest and longest-running private

donor of classrooms, with 3,200 two-story schools that are built since 1963. For the second year in a row, the federation is going for wider private impact this school opening season by "lending to it" the cheapest notebooks in Manila to its



TEAM Support
Fernando del Mundo
Chief, PDI-Island

Deadlock brings gov't closer to recycled budget

By TJ Burgeon,
G.C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Michael Lim-Uloc

THE GOVERNMENT INCHED CLOSER to having a reconstituted budget for the year of the year after Congress' second bicameral session on the proposed national budget of P1,000 billion for 2006 ended in a deadlock Monday night.

Without any breakthrough before Congress adjourns on Friday the prospect of reconstituting the 1997-98 billion budget for 2005 is "strong," administration Sen. Arroyo said yesterday.

"That means the President will be operating on the budget of last year, as in fact he has been operating already for the first half of 2006," he said in a briefing.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself said



LET THEM BE, SET THEM FREE: Animal rights advocates in the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals held a rally in front of the Manila Zoo on Tuesday urging to close and making the Philippines the last zoo-free country in Asia.



They committed no crimes, so why are they behind bars?

By Tina G. Santos

THEY'VE COMMITTED NO CRIME SO WHY are they behind bars? Twelve members of the animal rights advocate People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), wearing tiger masks and prison uniforms, yesterday staged a protest rally calling for the closure of all zoos in the country.

Pinoy scholars in Japan reverse brain drain



SCHOLARS HAVE FUN on a night out in Roppongi, Tokyo. Among the doctoral and master's students are, from right, Gregorio Evangelista, Charlotte Bustinza, Jane Barrios, Marikina Hays Marikina Barrios, Jay Barrios, and Michelle Barrios. Michelle Barrios and Charlotte Bustinza, leftmost, are also Pinoy.

By Doris C. Demile

SOYO—MORE AND MORE FILIPINOS ARE being drawn to universities in Asia's most modern country, but unlike those who pursue higher education elsewhere, they tend to be more eager to return home and contribute to the local jobs.

Last year, 50 to 100 Filipino students are chosen by the Japanese government for research, graduate and postgraduate programs. Most are from 20s and 30s, they are provided some government scholarship grants with less stringent academic

Those who intend to pursue MAs or PhDs usually apply for a research grant first, and only get some funding if accepted by the universities for further studies.

Japan now produces more Filipino postgraduate

PHOTO: ALF

Water Service Repair Rate

Reds seek resumption of talks on rights violations

By Norman Bastidas

THE COMBUSTIBLE HEARD of human rights violations against the government. In response, it has already 100 cases of alleged human rights violations by both sides despite the breakdown of peace negotiations.

One of the most of 700 complaints of alleged violations received by a joint government-NDF panel, 500 involved abuses by government security forces while 200 were blamed on NDF armed groups, a panel member said.

The NDF call for discussion on the cases committed with a suspension of killings of political activists around the country, which leftist groups blamed on government anti-insurgency groups.

villages involving 100 victims, according to a list provided by the NDF. They include people killed in alleged summary execution and 10 killed in disappearances.

Overnight body

The cases also include "forced disappearances" of 45 people.

Inside of 100 complaints, against communist armed groups were not immediately available. Peace talks broke down about two years ago after the government accused the attack of unlicensed attacks and the NDF protested against the violation of the talks in the so-called human rights violations of the United States and the European Union.

The 700 cases are pending before the Joint Human Rights Commission (JHRC) created by government and NDF peace negotiators.

In 2005 to review the implementation of their previous agreement on respect for human rights.

Dependent on peace talks

The JHRC is headed by the Dutch government, which is the mediator peace talks.

"The (government) panel is being kept in the context of the JHRC with the resumption of the peace talks. They are asking that there will be an NDF meeting within the peace talks process," said Thomas, a Brussels-based, head of the NDF section of the JHRC, joint secretary.

"That doesn't cut in the case because the human rights agency has already been agreed upon for the two parties," Peto said in a media briefing of the JHRC office.

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Importance of JHRC

He described one of the most important as a "symbolism," for the JHRC and by 2007 "symbolism," and said the other was much bigger.

He said the JHRC was a symbol of the commitment to human rights and the importance of the JHRC in the context of the peace talks.

Military response

"Composition of government and NDF representatives, the JHRC is a symbol of the commitment to human rights and the importance of the JHRC in the context of the peace talks."

However, since in late 2005, the JHRC has not met. The JHRC is a symbol of the commitment to human rights and the importance of the JHRC in the context of the peace talks.

CA committee backs Esperon promotion

By John Lading (revised)

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE COMMISSION ON Appointments recently endorsed the nomination of Brig. Gen. Manfredo Esperon as permanent commander general despite the vigorous objections of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

Biazon had previously expressed his opposition to the nomination of Esperon, commander of the Philippine Army, until after the Armed Forces of Mindanao had selected a military leader. Biazon's committee report on the nomination of Esperon and other generals was released on the evening of the 20th election to ensure President Macapagal-Arroyo's victory.

But Sen. Biazon, a former defense chief of the CA, Biazon committee, overruled Biazon's motion and the vote of the committee to endorse Esperon's nomination to the CA. Biazon and other senators, including Biazon, would be allowed to raise the objection now facing Biazon's vote.

Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., committee vice chair, said Esperon will most likely be confirmed today because it will be the last preliminary session of the CA before Congress adjourns on Friday.

"There is a good possibility he will be confirmed tomorrow after all the objections to the CA before Congress," Pichay said.

Biazon's motion to disapprove Esperon should not be presented to the full vote until the Senate report is introduced to the committee.

He said the CA should require the Manobo region's administration situation to be approved by the full vote. He said the objection to the nomination of Esperon to the CA should be based on the nomination of Esperon to the CA.

"I have not made a conclusion as to the merits or demerits of this person, what I need is confirmation of the vote," Biazon said.

He said if the President really wants Esperon's promotion, she should submit the Manobo report to the committee.

Esperon said he would not answer questions about the Manobo report or about the situation in Mindanao and that, despite Biazon's motion, who also opposes the promotion, Esperon will submit a resignation.

"I am submitting myself to the wisdom of the members of the committee," Esperon said.

Esperon and the other general's leaders were in the alleged election fraud related to the "Totoy Law" report. A military committee headed by then Chief of Armed Forces, Manobo, investigated the allegations and only recently released the general's report on the election fraud.

The Manobo, a first lieutenant and a private who were not identified, were from the 10th Marine Battalion based in Tawi-Tawi. They were guarding in Marawi City when they were killed in a suicide bombing in Marawi City.

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THERE'S A COOL CHANGE COMING.

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GMA rebuts accusations she won't tolerate dissent

By Joseph A. ...
... to respect the law is being done right.

"My government wants to strengthen democracy and I hope people will understand that the President is against 'democracy', not democracy."

"Come to realize reality and spread the freedom presented by the Commission," Ms. Arroyo said in a video posted online with a title.

The President said she had ordered the police, military and the Department of Justice to take the necessary steps to put a stop to the killings.

In the case of state journalists, she said that the authorities had planned and that the cases were not of the latter.

"There had been many arrests in some cases, there are more, at least, now hearing due other reports," she said in a video.

"Whether they are in the media, student groups or they are just ordinary citizens, their rights should be protected," she said.

Ms. Arroyo said she would be looking at the case of the late Lito Lapid, arrested after the 2001 election.

Lito Lapid's arrest and subsequent detention of his wife, Lito Lapid, was a violation of the law, she said.

Use judicial process
In the strongest statement to date from a government official, she said that the judicial process should be used to resolve the cases.

Death penalty is dead
The President said she would not support the death penalty.



17TH CABINET meeting as well as that of the board of the National Anti-Poverty Council and National Economic Development Authority is held at the Palace with President Arroyo presiding.

Gov. Arroyo, stopped short of vowing the military as well as the police for the killing and abduction of civilians.

The law enforcement agencies are to be held responsible for the killings and abductions.

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a democratic form of government," he stressed.

Previously, government and military officials had dismissed allegations of military and police involvement in the killings and abductions.

joint cooperation
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also seen as affecting events.

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The winning propaganda was that the killing had spilled over a border with Indonesia, where a series of small-scale attacks had been reported.

Separate covering the Police made a letter dated March 20, the 17th anniversary of the ODI, to the "Commission on Human Rights" and the "Human Rights Commission of the Philippines."

The letter said that the "Human Rights Commission of the Philippines" had been set up with a list of "human rights violations" and "human rights abuses."

The targets
The following will be targeted by the groups, it said in a letter.

It listed a group, including the President, Vice President, Speaker of the House, and other officials.

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Evidence in quarry scam disappears

WHAT'S INSIDE

Army general
says MILF camps
in refuge

CAPI



Old-timers slam 'upliftation' of Baguio

CHR probes report of abuse of 'Tagaytay 5'

By Tamiela Dwyer
First General Editor

OFFICIALS OF ISMIPANGA TOLD HOUSE INVESTIGATORS THEY lost original copies of receipts that could provide clues on how taxes from quarrying in Ichiraz were in the province were being stolen.

The documents, officials said, could replace the "black bag" in many instances when Sen. Edward "Lib" Lapid was thought to be present.

The officials made the adjustment when the House could not set a good price, instead, raised by 50¢ to 80¢, Arthur Johnson, Jr.

joined the hearings on Tuesday, or after more than a year of talk about May 16.

Protestant administrative Fiddi Brown reported that the patchwork permits issued by local governments as he read an affidavit by Rogers Hogg, the environmental and animal

removal effect of the herbicide given
alone.

The patients showed local anesthesia and constriction. After the China Water, to extract and had read without paying tax.

The Orlow company alone got 28,000, and stands with PFI million on its project to strengthen the tail dist. of the DVB Magdalen in Sweden, according to the late presidential administration. Jennifer Galtay, who is head of the committee last year.

Defendant said Ning faces charges of *inciting* in the custody of public *security*.

We also interviewed the partners of Vilas in the more housing in August. The same question would be asked to provincial case worker Miguel Salas, who was supposed to submit the copies of all grammes possible issued by Lapid from 1981 to 2001 and from 2002 to 2004, the former governor's last term.

Monday's hearing continued to focus on the causes of the "discrepancy" of \$237 million between the collections of the state-owned Natural Resources Development Corp. and the provincial quarry tax. From 1999 to 2003 and 2002 to 2004.

Aside from giving credit at an cost, Galing had also structured the financing to the corporation by some checkers and the drug is for demand by the construction in Austin.

India Rep. P. V. Narayana Murthy pressed the issue of alleged illegal sources of grants from permits as possible basis for grant charges against Ligand.

states that these permits were issued without approval from the provincial board.

But Galloway, in his past testimony, had attacked Light, saying the pro-life tax conference granted the fringe groups that pro-

(Hon. Mark Laidlaw, the treasurer's son, did not attend the ceremony in October.)

Dalhousie ordered the commission to seek an explanation from the Commission on its inability to fully fire agency in need down at least five requests of Justice to conduct a special audit on the finances of the provincial government.



Join our hosts for humanity and let it grow. Twenty years from now, some grandchildren will be glad we have you did.

DINO-GROUP TREE PLANTING AT LA MESA WATERSHED

James T. Moore

In memory of Steve Bauer
1938-2008. December 1st to 11th



Page 10 of 10



Kanlaon acts up; warning raised

SACKED CITY... RESCUE CLIMBERS and other workers have been ordered to delay any planned climb at the Mt. Erebus path since staff further confirm after Mt. Erebus continued to erupt on Wednesday.

The Philippine Commission on Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), in an advisory release (Bikolan), also reminded people that the Four-billower pronounced danger zone of Mount Makiling on Dagupan Island remained off limits to the public, particularly at this time when sudden and very strong explosions occur at several locations.

Endless Odors is a fully realized stream and with Secondary treatment but the Hilsinki has not reached any state level yet, the Provincial Disaster Management Team of Nagas Oudh and Odhava.

The Phoenix skyline said that at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, they were about 100 ft above the ground, and the height of the smoke plume was about 100 ft above the ground.

The Florida, however, sought to give its citizens full suffrage rights were denied by its white-majority, based in Orlando City in Miami-Dade.

Left diagonals were confined to the upper half of the slope of the volcano, according to the Principles, Carlo P. Giamberini, FOM Director, San



EXQUISITE FASHION

Bogus children don't really wear these traditional-looking garments to school, but they are authentic reproductions of ancient Bogus clothes that villagers still recall were being worn in ancient times.

By Jeffery M. Harris

Hiloilo governor won't let STL into his province

By Anne F. Burgess

PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

LEWIS CITY, LEWIS ISLAND—The Catholic Church here is opposing the entry of Small Towns (STL) into the province.

Texas said he would like the entry of STL to the province's 40 towns and cities.

"I do not share the government's propaganda that STL will advance the Bogus tradition," Texas said. "Bogus is not Bogus."

His letter addressed to the executive director of the American Anthropological Association, dated May 17, 2004, said that the STL will only create the real value of the people, and such that it is not a tradition, but a tradition.

Texas, a chair of the Bogus Foundation, said he is not a tradition, but a tradition.

Hiloilo City Mayor Jeffrey Torres said that Mayor Victoria de la Cruz, however, said they would

not let the decision of the city council, which would create public buildings in the city.

"I will support the decision of the council," said Torres.

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Hawaii, Isabela pact to ease flow of nurses

SMALL, ISABELA—THE FIRST meeting being held in Hawaii to discuss the island state of Hawaii to the United States and Isabela province is expected to boost the flow of nurses from the province and the improvement of the quality of nursing education there, officials said.

Nurses from Hawaii, Isabela, and the United States have met in a 12-day official visit, and the emphasis of Isabela's nurses was just one of the "promising prospects" that the two governments could combine through a memorandum of understanding.

"We have a very critical shortage of nurses in the state of Hawaii," said the Isabela province's health secretary, who said the Isabela province is a large number of Filipino nurses. The province was not to develop because you have a shortage that we need to fill," Isabela said. "We need to fill the gap."

Isabela said the idea of the inter-school pact came up when the United States and Isabela province met in the United States, where the idea was a study visit.

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ROUNDUP

CLIMBERS' BODIES FOUND—The bodies of two climbers were found in the mountains of the Philippines, according to the Philippine National Police.

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DECLINING ENROLLMENT

Negros school woes manageable, say execs

By Cori R. Davis

PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

ANACAP CITY, THE SHORTAGE of teachers and classrooms in Negros Occidental and Cebu City is minimal, education officials said as thousands of students returned to school Monday.

While in other public schools in the country the student population in public elementary and high schools is dropping, in Negros Occidental and Cebu City, the student population is still growing.

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ELEMENTARY school pupils pose for a photo with their teachers at the Negros Occidental School in Negros Occidental. The school's government is supplying new pupils with bags and shoes.

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Foreign guard found dead

MANILA, THE BODY of a foreign guard was found dead in the mountains of the Philippines, according to the Philippine National Police.

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Soldiers stop driver dead

MANILA, THE BODY of a soldier was found dead in the mountains of the Philippines, according to the Philippine National Police.

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INQUIRER

Northern Luzon

Editor: Jon Bantolano
 Associate Editor: B. Fernandez

Old-timers slam 'uglification' of Baguio

By Shaina Anne Bana, Beverly Castillo
 and John Michael Cruz
 Contributors

The smell
 of pine and
 the sight of
 Benguet
 lilies along
 Kennon
 used to
 make us
 excited to
 go home to
 Baguio'

THEY GREW UP SMELLING THE familiar scent of pine, experiencing foggy afternoons, and finding comfort in Baguio City's verdant slopes.

Gracie Adillo, Lorraine Lee Aguino and Virginia de Guia, now in their 40s and 50s, proudly grew up with Baguio and witnessed how its pristine environment was slowly taken by creeping developments.

They are now fighting for a cause that will restore their beloved city, their home, to its glory. They have challenges to overcome in their quest to protect Baguio's greenery.

This battle, they believe, is worth fighting for, even without their health.

The educator

Former teacher Lee Aguino, 54, recalls her memories of Baguio like they happened only yesterday.

"The smell of pine and the sight of Benguet (the dog house) [there] used to make us excited to go home to Baguio," says Lee Aguino, director of the Baguio Benguet Museum.

Lee Aguino graduated education at the Baguio City National High School and finished chemical engineering at the old Ateneo School of Engineering in Manila to become the first woman chemical engineer in the country.

She herself grew back to her roots in Baguio. She taught English, Chemistry and Geology for 45 years at the Baguio College Foundation and the University of the Cordilleras.

"I had to go home to Baguio, and I finally became the Executive Director of our family," says Lee Aguino.

The former Baguio resident has to say little about her family. Her mother, a former teacher, and her father, a former Baguio resident, are both in the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and the Lanes Club, the premier sports leagues for women's athletes.

"I have been fighting for the city for 15 years as a crusade to protect Baguio's greenery and others," she says.

The proposed flower marketing under the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center reminds her, she says, of "Baguio, one of the top tourist destinations in the country."

She is shocked why the Department of Public Works and Highways, which is a project that many people are opposing.

She is also shocked why the public, through the media, has been so negative and pollution would destroy Baguio's future, she says.

"I will still work [in public Baguio] until I



ENVIRONMENTALISTS AGG. (From left) Virginia de Guia, Gracie Adillo and Lorraine Lee Aguino want to preserve what is left of Baguio's pine cover by opposing the construction of a bypass as the city's gateway.

cannot breathe anymore," said Lee Aguino.

The public unrest

In Guila, Baguio, first woman executive and acting mayor, has been a quiet life for 15 years. She is not a public person but has not been.

"Baguio was a dream city created, formed and planned by the Americans," she says.

She also says the few old photographs, great memories to look at.

The last owner has a prominent family in the city. She says she is a natural environmentalist since her father was among the pioneer families in the country.

After graduating from the University of the Philippines with a degree in philosophy, Lee Aguino came and worked for the city in 1968.

She returned to Baguio and found herself struggling to make sense of it.

"I don't regret taking up law because it was hard," she says, but she is not a lawyer.

Knowledge of the law, she says, helped her make Baguio a self-administered city during her term. "Baguio had a good government, it was a very disciplined city," she says.

the public and he has environment has deteriorated Baguio, into a tourist city to the extent.

She blames politicians for pushing through with unnecessary projects such as the proposed Bypass.

"We are in favor of development, but development must have discipline," she says.

She is planning to make another important order on the proposed highway that she is in a hurry to get to see from the city government.

"We are making the possibility of going directly to the Bypass for the moment," he says.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte has approved the Bypass and he will see how the project will turn out for the project.

He is also making the possibility of going directly to the Bypass for the moment, he says.

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go to stay in Baguio. She says she has the idea of staying there.

But like Lee Aguino and De Guia, Adillo thinks that Baguio has changed for the worse.

"There are too many houses, too many cars, too much noise and too much pollution," she says.

When the city is so noisy, she says, it is not good for the health of the people who live there.

She says she is not a doctor, but she is a mother and she is a grandmother. She is a woman who is a mother and a grandmother.

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So you want to drink 'tapuy' in Ambaguio? Think again

By Ben Flores, Ben Flores

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ANCIENT WISE: Indigenous people of the Cordillera, the 100-year-old tradition, have been producing 'tapuy' (rice wine) for centuries.

spending more [time] drinking than working," Aguino said.

She said drinking is not a good thing, but it is a tradition.

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The Advance Culinary Placement Diploma (ACP)

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ARMED!
BUST team member goes over the case of the bombing.



THE IMPACT
disaster
profound
in the ground
floor of the
Grapella
building
interview

Blast rocks Makati building Planholders, firm feud eyed

By Luigi A. del Puerto, Terra V.
Quimanto and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

A BOMB WENT OFF IN FRONT OF THE Grand Pacific Mall Avenue Corp. (Grapella) building on 635 Pacific Avenue, Makati City, at around 12:45, yesterday.

No one was hurt in the incident although the blast shattered glass panels on the first floor where the office of Galleon Plans, a licensee of pre-paid firm Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI), is located.

"Right now, it's premature to point to any group as responsible for the attack but one angle being looked into is the rift between Pacific and its planholders," said Justice Dept. Special Agent in Charge (SAC) the spokesperson of the Philippine National Police.

"That's the strongest angle so far," he said, adding that the Philippine owners of the insurance firm, were fully cooperating with police investigations.

PPI planholders have been pursuing litigation with the firm. The PPI, on the other hand, had sought remedy from the courts, stating it was unable to pay the claims because of business insurance. A group in the forefront of the fight, the Pacific Building Owners (PBO), Galleon, subsequently sued the Galleon-owned PPI because of alleged plans. For now, PPI need be filed none of the PBO's suits.

PPI's Justice spokesman Philip Pineda, however, denied that the group was behind the bombing. "They can quickly point to planholders but we can also say that the blast may have come from domestic gain sympathy, of which they have some support. It's easy to guess who it's coming to," Pineda said.

In addition, "There are limits to actions we can do and we do not recommend such things, that's why we want to be careful."

Business in lull
PPI spokesperson Thilo Desiderio, meanwhile, said it was business as usual. "We believe that the bombing is merely part of an orchestrated attack against PPI to scare us and prevent us from dissolving ourselves and settling of the remedies available under the law," Desiderio added.

Officials from the Makati Police Special Projects and Task Force and the PPI South Group in Cebu said the suspected explosion device (EDS) was a pitfall, based on the remains of the bomb recovered from the scene.

Pineda said it was unlikely that terrorism was behind the attack because of the type of explosive used and the manner in which the attack was carried out.

Justice
SAC Justice Wilfredo Garcia, meanwhile, had another theory. "Maybe, a slighter of justice group is trying to exact justice for planholders," he said.

Makati police chief, Justice Dept. Western Division, had the same view. "Maybe, an organization of the planholders or people who feel like they have been too oppressed had conversations with justice or justice groups and said, 'Let's show them justice,'" Garcia said.

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Stopping for gas was unwise move for 3 robbery suspects

By Terry V. Quinsamola

THREE SUSPECTED ROBBERY SUSPECTS stopped at around 4 a.m. yesterday after two of their victims recognized the suspects' vehicle as a gasoline station on the corner of Cal Street and Chico Street in Manila City.

The three—followed by the owners of the gasoline station—were identified as Marlo Villanueva, Ramon Luis Mante and a 17-year-old boy.

"They were stopped by those they had victimized in the past days. They were identified and arrested by a mobile guard," said Manila police chief Ramon M. Mariano.

The suspects were on board a green 1998 model game Toyota Corolla (GMA 204) which had a stolen car tag from the Metropolitan and Department of Interior and Local Government since they had in the past been victimized by the suspects. The police were waiting for the group's other victims to file a complaint against them.

One of the suspects was arrested on the spot.

They immediately started police officers, who in turn confirmed that the vehicle was being sought by authorities. After their arrest, the suspects were taken to a 30-day transfer and a 14-day 14-hour transfer.

While still several victims, they had stopped at the gas station, which was located inside the vehicle.

"They have been under surveillance for a week. We have responded to a lot of their victims being investigated. They have been operating here for about a month," said the police chief.

While said the alleged victims, which include several victims, they were arrested on board their car, which was parked at the city at night, looking for victims.

The suspects' two robbery charges based on the complaint of the two victims. The police were waiting for the group's other victims to file a complaint against them.



LYING DANGERFULLY

Remains of a house destroyed by the typhoon in Marikina City. Residents are living on the edge of the mound of the rising ocean may lead to floods which could wash away their houses.

Still no classes at Taguig high; principal hangs on

By Joseph R. Uy

CLARENCE ROMANO SUSPENDED AT THE Taguig National High School as search teams found many students after the school was damaged by a typhoon, reportedly on the basis of school principal Dr. Clarence Romo's refusal to accept the school's closure.

Classes were called off on Monday as over 100 teachers, students and other personnel stayed at the school, which was damaged by a typhoon, reportedly on the basis of school principal Dr. Clarence Romo's refusal to accept the school's closure.

Meanwhile, Department of Education (DepEd) Undersecretary Franklin Reyes said he would not accept the school's closure. He said he would not accept the school's closure. He said he would not accept the school's closure.

agreed to another school, but I refused." Romo said the school's principal should be punishing the teachers who held a rally on Monday because they reportedly refused to accept the school's closure.

Meanwhile, the school's principal should be punishing the teachers who held a rally on Monday because they reportedly refused to accept the school's closure.

Meanwhile, the school's principal should be punishing the teachers who held a rally on Monday because they reportedly refused to accept the school's closure.

METROBRIEFS

Help desks in schools

If you cannot go to the police, the police will come to you. Metro Police is now offering help desks in schools to assist students in reporting crimes.

Meanwhile, the school's principal should be punishing the teachers who held a rally on Monday because they reportedly refused to accept the school's closure.

By Joseph R. Uy

LLDA okays reopening of snack factory in Caloocan

By Nancy C. Cornejo

A FACTORY NERGED IN A SNOUT DOWN IN JUNE by the Laguna Lake Development Authority has been allowed to resume after complying with anti-pollution requirements set by the government agency.

LLDA General Manager Antonio A. Santos II signed the three-page order dated May 17 lifting the ban on the factory's operations.

The factory in Caloocan City was allowed to resume operations after management undertook to install measures, including the construction of a wastewater treatment facility (WTF) on the premises.

On May 17, LLDA Board of Directors implemented an anti-pollution program in which management agreed to install the WTF and other measures to reduce pollution.

The WTF, however, was not yet operational as of May 17. LLDA Board of Directors is currently reviewing the progress of the WTF's construction.

Requirements

Nancy M. Uy, LLDA Board of Directors, said that the requirements set by the government agency, "and the installation of the WTF, are the main conditions for the factory to resume operations."

The LLDA Board of Directors is currently reviewing the progress of the WTF's construction.

The LLDA Board of Directors is currently reviewing the progress of the WTF's construction.

Struck by lightning

THE FIRST day of school started with a bang for a 15-year-old girl. Before 7:30 a.m., she was struck by lightning while walking to school.

Meanwhile, the school's principal should be punishing the teachers who held a rally on Monday because they reportedly refused to accept the school's closure.

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Pasig mayor vows to stop entry of STL in city

By Edmar C. Tindoc Jr.

AMONG PASIG CITY'S MAYOR ALBINO VILLANUEVA, Mayor Villanueva has vowed to stop the entry of STL (Shoring, Trenching, and Laying) into the city.

"I will not allow any form of getting into Pasig City," Villanueva, a member of the Pasig City Council, said.

He made the announcement after he was approached by several labor unions regarding the establishment of an STL office in the city.

"I am making this announcement as I will not allow it to be in the city," Villanueva said.

The national government came up with the STL, now being run by the Philippine Association and Building Corp., to improve the city's infrastructure.

Issues at stake

Some unions at the metropolitan, however, such as the Pasig City Mayor Villanueva, have opposed STL operations in the city.

"The STL is a threat to the city's infrastructure," Villanueva said.

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"The STL is a threat to the city's infrastructure," Villanueva said.



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BY IAN GARGLELAND

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BY HENK KAMBA

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BY GLENETH O'NEILL

TULOOD

BY ANDREW SCOTT HARRISON

BY JIM LARSEN

BY JIM LARSEN

PUGO RASH

BY TIM JACOB

HUTTS

BY PATRICK HOGAN

DOING COMEDY

BY STEVE WALSH

EX-MEN

BY PATRICK HOGAN

MIN

BY DANIEL BULCH

DAILY CROSSWORD

ANSWERS

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BUSINESS

Editor Raul Q. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narines

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Proposed law to build up road

The bill aims to speed up the highway construction process by giving the private sector more incentives.



Source: PH Railways, Bureau of Road & Transport

Neda go-ahead sought for \$700-M South Rail project

By Dennis L. Lora

THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT HAS sought the approval of the National Economic and Development Authority for the proposed South Rail project that will link Metro Manila to Marikina through a rapid-rail system.

It is an initiative, Transportation Undersecretary Danilo A. Manalang said, his office was now waiting for the go-ahead from the Public Investment Coordination Committee before proceeding with negotiations with the Chinese government for the project's funding.

"This whole project will cost up to \$700 million," he said. "The Chinese government has offered to build it."

He said the South Rail project was not yet in that stage for the \$500-million South Rail program, a multimodal project aimed at improving the already clogged road network, which would also be funded by the private sector.

The government has yet to determine whether China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. (CMEC), the state-owned firm, would also be involved in the South Rail project.

As early as last year, DTCEC has expressed interest to take part in the South Rail project.

But, despite an earlier agreement between the Philippine government and a Chinese consortium.

"This will be a 300-kilometer project (including) from Calabarzon to Marikina," Manalang pointed out, explaining why it was expected to be more expensive than the South Rail project.

Unlike the South Rail, however, which is aimed at the construction of new facilities, the PCC, officials said the South Rail project would merely involve the rehabilitation of existing facilities like the train tracks currently being used by the Philippine National Railways.

Based from the bid document, the train tracks will be upgraded to be able to handle high-speed trains.

"We are still studying which is the best," he added, referring to the kinds of train systems and infrastructure the project will have, although they are likely to be covered from CTA as it is a funding agreement in Manila between both countries.

Manalang, who oversees the government's rail projects, said construction of the South Rail would start next year after all approvals that have been secured and will take longer than five to five years to build.

INQUIRER

Inflation slows to 6.9%

Strong peso tempers rise in basic prices in May

By Michelle K. Bono

INFLATION EASED FURTHER TO 6.9 PERCENT year-on-year in May, the lowest in four months, as the stronger peso helped temper the effects of the higher value-added tax on prices of consumer products.

The latest inflation rate, which has been made by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), was a contraction from 7.1 percent in April and also 7.4 percent in February and March.

It also brought the average to 6.9 percent for the first three months of the year to 7.2 percent.

In May last year, inflation stood at 5.1 percent.

"This is better than our expectations. This will help us meet, if not surpass, our inflation target for the full year of 7.0 to 7.5 percent," said Finance Secretary Ma. Gloria Arroyo, who oversees the policy and planning.

The NEDA earlier projected that inflation in May likely would be

between 7 and 7.2 percent.

The National Institute Office statistics reported that price of nearly all commodity groups, except for clothing and services, increased at a slower rate than the previous month. Only clothing and services failed to register a double-digit inflation rate.

The NEDA earlier inflation rate for products belonging to the food, beverage and tobacco group stood at 5.9 percent in May, down from 6.1 percent in April. Prices of housing and public utilities rose by average 4 percent, absolute terms, but 2 percent the month before. Fuel, light and water rose 15.4 percent from 10.9 percent, and administration

inflation at 10.9 percent.

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JP Morgan downgrades RP rating

Bank's debt assessment revised to 'neutral' from 'overweight'

By Michele K. Bono

PHILADELPHIA — JP Morgan has downgraded its assessment of the Philippines' debt from "overweight" to "neutral," as it expressed concerns over the effects of labor and business's resistance that it would not be able to meet its obligations.

A "neutral" rating means that the bank has no strong opinion on whether the Philippines' government is likely to meet its obligations.

The "overweight" assessment, on the other hand, means that JP Morgan believes that the Philippines' government is likely to meet its obligations. JP Morgan noted that the RP's debt is not as high as the government's ability to meet its obligations. It is also a sign of confidence in the country's ability to meet its obligations.

JP Morgan's rating of the Philippines' debt is one of the most important factors in determining the country's creditworthiness. The rating is used by investors to determine whether to invest in the country's debt.

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Angara pushes passage of biofuels bill

By Miguel L. Ho

MANILA — EDUARDO ANGARA is pushing for the immediate passage of the pending biofuels bill, saying that it would help the country achieve its energy goals.

Angara, who is the chair of the Senate Committee on Energy, said that the bill would help the country achieve its energy goals.

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Petron studying feasibility of second refinery

No plan to take over Poro Point, says BCDA exec

THE BASIC COMMODITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY seemed to have backed off a long-term strategy when an apparent phase in its move from Poro Point, towards the Subic Bay General Port, was announced last week.

The BCDA president, however, said the agency was not abandoning its long-term strategy to develop a new port in Poro Point, but it was not planning to take over the Poro Point area.

BCDA president Ismael Magsaysay said in a statement that "only the owner could decide what to do with the land."

"I would like to assure our investors and businessmen that the BCDA does not have any intention of declaring the Poro Point area as a port area," Magsaysay said.

Magsaysay said he was reacting to reports that the Poro Point area was being considered as a port area by the BCDA. He said the BCDA was not planning to take over the Poro Point area, but it was not planning to take over the Poro Point area.

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By Elpidio S. Iba

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New plant in Mindanao or expansion of facility in Bataan

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METRO PACIFIC

(Incorporated in the Philippines)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the stockholders of METRO PACIFIC CORPORATION will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Metropolitan Convention Center (Level 4) Manila, Philippines. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- To consider and approve the President's Report and the Annual Report for the year 2005
- To consider and approve the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2005 submitted to the Board of Directors
- To elect members of the Board of Directors and Management for the year 2006
- To consider the Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 12th day of August 2005
- To elect the Chairman of the Company for the ensuing year
- To appoint the external auditor of the Company for the year 2006
- To transact all the business that may properly come before the meeting and all the business incidental thereto

The Board of Directors has fixed the date of the meeting on the 14th day of June 2006 as the date on which the stockholders are entitled to vote and to elect the Board of Directors.

By: _____

President & General
Manager

some others just make you want to jump for joy!

Canon Midyear Madness

trade in your existing copier and
save as much as

P 150,000.00

plus

get FREE gifts

Hurry!

call us at

884-9009 to 10

and get the best digital solution
for your office today!



Business CAN be simple

Canon Marketing Philippines Inc.

Metropolitan Convention Center, Level 4, Manila, Philippines. Tel No. 884-9009 to 10. Fax No. 884-9009 to 10.

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Canon Marketing Philippines Inc. is a member of the Canon Group of Companies. Canon Group of Companies is a leading manufacturer of office equipment and information technology products. Canon Marketing Philippines Inc. is a member of the Canon Group of Companies. Canon Group of Companies is a leading manufacturer of office equipment and information technology products. Canon Marketing Philippines Inc. is a member of the Canon Group of Companies. Canon Group of Companies is a leading manufacturer of office equipment and information technology products.

Canon
Delighting You Always



Getting more out of your fuel

WITH THE GAS-PUMPING LINE OF OFTENSE, you would think that it is no longer to do but how much you can do. In fact, there are a number of challenges you can take to get the most out of your tank. Here are some tips to help you get the most out of your tank.

The American Automobile Association (AAA), which publishes the *Automobile Blue Book*, says that the most important factors in getting the most out of your tank are:

1. Keep your car in top condition. This means making sure that your car's engine, transmission, and other major components are in good working order. This includes regular oil changes, tire rotations, and other maintenance tasks.

2. Drive smoothly. This means avoiding aggressive driving habits, such as rapid acceleration and braking. It also means driving at a steady pace, avoiding high speeds, and using cruise control when appropriate.

3. Use cruise control. This feature helps maintain a steady speed, which can improve fuel efficiency.

4. Avoid idling. Leaving the engine running while the car is stopped wastes fuel.

5. Use air conditioning sparingly. Running the AC increases fuel consumption.

6. Use a fuel additive. Some additives claim to improve fuel efficiency, but their effectiveness is debated.

7. Drive at a steady pace. Maintaining a consistent speed can help optimize fuel economy.

8. Avoid rapid acceleration and braking. These actions can significantly reduce fuel efficiency.

9. Use a fuel-efficient driving style. This includes keeping a safe following distance and anticipating traffic changes.

10. Regular maintenance. Keeping your car in good condition is essential for optimal fuel economy.

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Rosy talk

THE UNUSUAL WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

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Cebu Auto Show showcases the latest in auto industry



2006 Hyundai Rio on display at the auto show

NTOP MODEL, BECAUSE OF HERITY, presented Cebu, Hyundai Santa Fe and Rio's Rio India made its public debut at the Cebu Auto Show 2006 held at the Ayala Center Cebu.

The Motor show held a mini fashion show and a talk launch of the Rio India and all models of the Cebu-based dealer were already sold out during the show.

As Motor Philippines marketing manager, Chae Nakagawa believes that the sales of the Cebu dealership will substantially improve with the help of the new Cebu Auto Show.

Other exhibitors were also recognized with actual on-site sales and new vehicle make during the show.

Auto show guests

Over 30,000 visitors walked and browsed the afternoon, but to visit the day-long auto show which was staged by the same group that brought the Manila International Auto Show 2006, the country's biggest and only indoor auto show which was held recently.

Also on display were the latest models from



Custom carveries at the Cebu auto show

Hyundai, KIA, Isuzu, Nissan and Suzuki. Over 10 cars were displayed in the mall and next pavilion including custom cars created by Cebu's emerging artists.

Highlights

A custom car show competition was held and held its winner at the show. Judge John Francisco who flew from Manila for the occasion. Award categories included the custom best of show award.

Industry and academic exhibitions, show cars, sound-offs, celebrity appearances and fashion shows were among the show's highlights.

During the opening of the show were Cebu Gov. Gerson Garcia and Cebu Chamber of Commerce president Patricia Rodriguez. Garcia welcomed the organizers' initiative to showcase the best of what the automobile industry has to offer in Cebu.

Cleaner engines with new Petron Carbon Flush

AMC 1800, 1.8L, 2.0L, 2.4L, 2.8L, 3.0L, 3.6L, 4.0L, 4.6L, 5.0L, 5.7L, 6.0L, 6.6L, 7.0L, 7.3L, 7.8L, 8.0L, 8.3L, 8.6L, 8.9L, 9.0L, 9.3L, 9.7L, 10.0L, 10.3L, 10.6L, 10.9L, 11.0L, 11.3L, 11.6L, 11.9L, 12.0L, 12.3L, 12.6L, 12.9L, 13.0L, 13.3L, 13.6L, 13.9L, 14.0L, 14.3L, 14.6L, 14.9L, 15.0L, 15.3L, 15.6L, 15.9L, 16.0L, 16.3L, 16.6L, 16.9L, 17.0L, 17.3L, 17.6L, 17.9L, 18.0L, 18.3L, 18.6L, 18.9L, 19.0L, 19.3L, 19.6L, 19.9L, 20.0L, 20.3L, 20.6L, 20.9L, 21.0L, 21.3L, 21.6L, 21.9L, 22.0L, 22.3L, 22.6L, 22.9L, 23.0L, 23.3L, 23.6L, 23.9L, 24.0L, 24.3L, 24.6L, 24.9L, 25.0L, 25.3L, 25.6L, 25.9L, 26.0L, 26.3L, 26.6L, 26.9L, 27.0L, 27.3L, 27.6L, 27.9L, 28.0L, 28.3L, 28.6L, 28.9L, 29.0L, 29.3L, 29.6L, 29.9L, 30.0L, 30.3L, 30.6L, 30.9L, 31.0L, 31.3L, 31.6L, 31.9L, 32.0L, 32.3L, 32.6L, 32.9L, 33.0L, 33.3L, 33.6L, 33.9L, 34.0L, 34.3L, 34.6L, 34.9L, 35.0L, 35.3L, 35.6L, 35.9L, 36.0L, 36.3L, 36.6L, 36.9L, 37.0L, 37.3L, 37.6L, 37.9L, 38.0L, 38.3L, 38.6L, 38.9L, 39.0L, 39.3L, 39.6L, 39.9L, 40.0L, 40.3L, 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360.6L, 360.9L, 361.0L, 361.3L, 361.6L, 361.9L, 362.0L, 362.3L, 362.6L, 362.9L, 363.0L, 363.3L, 363.6L, 363.9L, 364.0L, 364.3L, 364.6L, 364.9L, 365.0L, 365.3L,

